

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 9-12 are pending. Claims 25 and 26, drawn to a non-elected invention have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No other claim amendments have been presented herein. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner has asserted that the Declaration is defective because "non-initialed and/or non-dated alterations have been made to the oath or declaration." Applicants are in the process of obtaining a Supplemental Oath or Declaration in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.67(a) and will submit a new oath or declaration as soon as it is available.

Election/Restrictions

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that the claims are directed to multiple independent and distinct inventions. In response to this Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect the invention of Group I (claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 9-12), drawn to a method of inhibiting the formation of an atherosclerotic lesion and inhibiting the differentiation of a macrophage into a foam cell by administering an antisense molecule targeted to AFABP (SEQ ID NO:2). This election is made without traverse.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any questions or issues arise concerning the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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